Corruption in PDS

749. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 40 per cent of beneficiaries are being kept away from the PDS scheme by denying ration cards as per CAG report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government; and

(c) the details of monitoring mechanism by the Central Government to supervise PDS scheme being implemented through the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per CAG report for the year ended March, 2005 [Union Government (Civil) Performance Audit No. 16 of 2006], a survey conducted regarding functioning of fair price shops in Manipur, *inter-alia*, indicated that 37% of the beneficiaries had not been issued ration cards. In this regard the report was called for from the State Government of Manipur, The State Government has reported that FPS level vigilance committees have been set up and adequate efforts are being made to improve TPDS. It has also been informed that penal action has been taken against four officers of the Food and Civil Supplies Department for diversion of foodgrains.

(c) Under PDS (Control) Order 2001, State & UT Governments are mandated to issue ration cards only to eligible applicants. As stipulated under this Order, reports are obtained from State Governments on their monitoring of TPDS under clause 8 and penal action taken under clause 9. Reports in Form 'C' are obtained on distribution of foodgrains and status of ration cards. Utilization Certificates (UCs) for the foodgrains allocated to State Governments are obtained regularly from the State Governments. Review meetings are held with Food Secretaries of State Governments on functioning of the TPDS. Area Officers of this Department also visit the States to monitor the functioning of TPDS in the States.

Similarly progress reports are obtained on implementation of 9-points action plan.

Sale of banned 'Khesari' pulse in open market

†750.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years since pulses are imported in the country;

(b) the reasons for importing pulses;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ban on khesari pulse continues; and

(d) if so, whether Government is aware that khesari pulse is being treated with chemicals and poisonous materials and is being sold in the open market, and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi